

Feb. 9, 1937

My dear + very busy Doctor —

I loathe even to bother you with this — but Mr. Young thought that I should mention the "shoe manufacturing" that went on to such an extent in Duxbury for a period of about 20 years, 1850 - 1870, roughly speaking. - Not a business of tremendous magnitude, but it brought enough of good, hard cash into the town that it kept the Big Bad Wolf on the other side of the potato patch for a good many families. In our "suburb" of Milbrook, within a radius of $\frac{1}{2}$ mile — there were 16 of these individual shops, each a "factory" for 2, 3 + 4 workers.

The work was brought from Rockland + Abington, + distributed

among the workers for finishing

During this same period,
"slop work" was done by the women —
this being the finishing of men's
clothes. They certainly were not
overpaid — 6 cents a pair for
trousers being one price paid, the
work was all "piece work".

Vo former chronicler" has
mentioned this little business —
but it was quite a factor
within this 100 years which
the Committee is recording.

However, if you think it
still too unimportant to note —
just forgive me for taking
your time — & drag out the
waste basket!

Hoping that you are all
over that awful cold that
was the one sad feature of
your Triumphant Progress
thru official Washington —

Sincerely

Elsebeth C. Ballou

BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY

3/3

Feb. 9, 1937

My dear and very busy Doctor

I loathe even to bother you with this---but Mr. Young thought that I should mention the "shoe manufacturing" that went on to such an extent in Duxbury for a period of time of about 20 years, 1850-1870, roughly speaking. Not a business of tremendous magnitude, but it brought enough of good, hard cash into the town that it kept the Big Bad Wolf on the other side of the potato patch for a good man families. In our "suburb" of Millbrook, within the radius of ½ mile ---there were 16 of these individual shops, each a "factory" for 2,3, and 7 workers.

The work was brought from Rockland and Abington, and distributed among the workers for finishing.

During this same period, "shop work" was done by the women---this being the finishing of men's clothes. They certainly were not overpaid---6 cents a pair for trousers being one price paid. The work was all piece work.

No former chronicler has mentioned this little business---but it was quite a factor within this 100 years which the Committee is recording.

However, if yhou think it still too unimportant to note---just forgive me for taking your time---and drag out the waste basket!

Hoping that you are all over that awful cold that was the one sad feature of your Triumphal Progress thru official Washington----

Sincerely

Elizabeth C. Bolton

*transcribed
from letter
5/2003*